



(Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Neyland 2-32 Field Artillery Regiment)

A Soldier from Battery A, 2nd Bn., 32nd FA, 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., hits fists with a local schoolboy in front of a wall that was repaired by Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers and Iraqi Army troops.

School wall repaired in Hateen

**By 1st Lt. Charles Bloomfield
2-32 Field Artillery Regiment**

BAGHDAD - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers teamed up with Iraqi Army troops to repair a school in the Hateen neighborhood of the Iraqi capital May 3.

While using a bulldozer to clean up piles of trash around the school, the Iraqi Army accidentally knocked down part of the outer wall around the school.

Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, linked up with the 3rd Battalion,

5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, to deliver temporary barriers in order to block up the hole. The emplacements, called HESCO barriers, are collapsible wire mesh containers with a heavy duty plastic liner. Filled with sand or dirt, a 24-inch-thick HESCO barrier will stop rifle bullets and shell fragments.

The Iraqi Army also brought in a team to clear the debris and rubble from the fallen wall.

"We are very concerned for the safety of the children (because of the hole in the wall) and we are very grateful for the help,"

Baghdad in Brief

Senior officer wounded by small arms fire

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - A senior commander in Multi-National Division - Baghdad was wounded in eastern Baghdad by small arms fire May 3.

Col. B.D. Farris, commander of the 2nd "Falcon" Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, was conducting a site survey of the temporary concrete barrier emplacements in the area when the attack occurred. He was hit by a single bullet.

Farris was treated and evacuated. He is in stable condition.

"He's a great leader," said Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., commanding general of Multi-National Division - Baghdad of Farris and the job his brigade has done in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District. "Our formations are filled with great leaders. As unfortunate as this event is, we train our Soldiers to step up when needed. Col. John G. Castles II will take on temporary command of the Falcon Brigade. Commanding in a combat zone is a monumental responsibility, but I have full confidence in the capability and commitment of John to lead his paratroopers in the wake of this event."

Castles is coming to Baghdad from the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga. Fil said he and other senior leaders of MND-B are focused on securing the people of Baghdad.

"Our commitment to the safety and security of the Iraqi people in Baghdad remains our paramount concern," Fil said. "We remain committed to this mission. This attack only strengthens our resolve to eliminate extremist elements from the Iraqi capital."

Troops build to protect

Wall

From Page 1

the school master told 1st Lt. Matthew Neyland, a native of San Antonio.

"It shows a lot of progress to see the Iraqi Army taking an active role in bettering the community," said Neyland.

Before Neyland departed, the school master mentioned that they also needed help to fix the windows of the school. The

windows were blown out by an improvised explosive device detonation the week prior.

Despite the work that remains, Neyland said repairing the hole in the wall is a great achievement and will help protect the teachers and the children from possible harm.

"The school master thanked me, repeatedly, and the children were very happy to see us," Neyland said. "It's great to see the kids interacting with the Soldiers."



(Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Neyland 2-32 Field Artillery Regiment)

Soldiers from 1st Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, spread out HESCO barriers to block a hole in the outer wall at a school in the Baghdad neighborhood of Hateen.

Baghdad in Brief

DoD states force adjustments

WASHINGTON - The Department of Defense announced today additional major units scheduled to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The deployment window for these units will begin in August 2007 and continue through the end of the year.

Specific units receiving deployment orders include: 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas; 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.; 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.; 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.; 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, La.; 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.; 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; 2nd Cavalry Regiment (Stryker), Vilseck, Germany; 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany.

DoD will continue to announce major unit deployments as units are identified and given deployment orders.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

gumrug

**Defined:
customs**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 102
Low: 73



Tomorrow

High: 102
Low: 73



Friday

High: 100
Low: 73

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Soldiers continue to build schools, trust with locals

**By Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma
1st Cav. Public Affairs**

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Despite recent insurgent attacks, Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers assisted in continuing the construction of several schools north of Baghdad May 2.

Soldiers with 2nd "Stallion" Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, escorted local contractors who transported in boxes of tiles, doors, windows, bathroom fixtures, ceiling fans and other building supplies for use in the construction of several schools in two small towns north of the Iraqi capital, Tarmiyah and Musada.

One school being constructed is the Huda Girls' School in Tarmiyah which was targeted by Al-Qaeda extremists in the area twice in the past month using improvised explosive devices.

In the most recent attempt by insurgents to cease further construction, Stallion Soldiers discovered five

artillery shells, two large explosive-filled propane tanks and numerous projectiles emplaced in and around the all girls' school.

According to the executive officer of the battalion, Maj. Robert Rodriguez, from Santa Fe, N.M., Multi-National Division - Baghdad troops will continue to develop projects such as these, despite Al Qaeda's attempts to stop them, to show the people of Iraq the Coalition's commitment to a better Iraq and its people's well-being.

"It is ironic that on the same day terrorists were planning to blow up the school, the Soldiers of 2-8 Cav., along with local leaders, were making plans to deliver more school construction supplies," Rodriguez said.

"Together with the Iraqi people, the U.S. military makes Iraq a more secure, stable place one day at a time," he said.

Rodriguez said his unit remains committed to making Iraq a better, safer place to live, despite the terrorists' efforts to stop them.

"You have Al Qaeda trying to



2nd Lt. Steve Sanchez, a platoon leader with 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., helps locals move boxes of tiles for use in the construction of several schools in the towns north of Baghdad May 2. influence even the opening of schools," he said. "We won't be deterred in our task to help these people. I think it sends a powerful message to the world."



(U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Rachel Ahner, 982nd Combat Camera Company)

Local contractors load boxes of tiles onto the flat bed of a semi-truck outside of a northern Baghdad warehouse May 2.

3rd BCT Soldiers celebrate 'Days of Remembrance'

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAQOUBA, Iraq -- Soldiers from the 3rd "Grey Wolf" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stationed at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08, gathered in the Faulkenberg Theater for the Days of Remembrance Observance, April 29.

Soldiers listened as Chaplain (Capt.) Jesus Perez and Maj. Robert "Bubba" Cain spoke about the remembrance of the Holocaust in a presentation called "Children in Crisis: Voices from the Holocaust."

Perez said it was important to speak to others about the Holocaust to help remind Grey Wolf Soldiers to never forget about such a tragic event so it is never repeated again.

"It's been over 60 years since the Holocaust," said Perez, Chaplain from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

"To survivors, the Holocaust remains real and ever present, but for some others, 60 years makes the Holocaust seem part of ancient history," he continued.

Perez said though Holocaust remembrance is only one day of the year, it is an important part of history about the enduring struggle of the Jewish community that Soldiers need to remember.

"Why I cannot forget... why we should [talk about] an event that seems so far behind us? Why to remember and not move forward?" he continued, "because the number of people killed by [Adolf] Hitler and his Nazi party, in what he called, 'The final solution to the Jewish problem,' is unfathomable and full statistics for the tragic fate of these children will never be known.

"Estimates range as high as 1.5 million murdered children during the Holocaust," Perez added. "Plucked from their homes and stripped from their childhoods, the children have witnessed the murders of their parents, sibling and relatives. They faced starvation, illness and brutal labor until they were [lead] to the gas chambers.

"Nazi's established over 800 ghettos throughout Eastern Europe to isolate and



(Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

While giving the benediction at the conclusion of the "Days of Remembrance" ceremony, April 29, Chaplain (Capt.) Jesus Perez, 3rd BSTB, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., says on old Hebrew prayer for the Soldiers of 3rd BCT and for the people who died during the Holocaust.

control Jewish population," he said, continuing his lesson. "Many children and babies died in the ghettos due to lack of food, clothing and shelter, as well as the unsanitary and over crowded condition that spread disease.

"The Nazis considered most children in the ghettos useless for productive activity," said Perez. "They weren't generally used for [extreme] labor, thereby increasing their chance of [being taken] to a concentration camp and extermination camps, where they were usually killed."

Perez stopped his lesson for a moment as a small hint of tears welled up in his eyes while he described tragic event which happened to Jewish Children in the camps.

"Jewish children were frequently among the first victims when [Nazis] sought to destroy the Jewish communities," Perez said. "Upon arrival to concentration or extermination camps, the majority of children were sent straight to the gas chambers. Other children, such as twins, were used by Nazis for scientific medical experiments, and suffered permanent phys-

ical damages."

A small bit of hope entered his voice as Perez spoke of a small number of children who fought to live through the tortures of the ghettos and camps.

"Some Jewish children discovered ways to survive; many smuggled food into the ghettos," Perez continued. "A number of children even participated in escapes to join patrician survivors. But only a small number of Jewish children survived the Holocaust era."

"Why I cannot forget...because in memory, we do move forward," he said. "In remembering, we see what still needs to be done to avoid another Holocaust. By remembering we keep alive the memories of those who lost their lives because of hate and envy. Please, do not forget."

Cain, the executive officer of 3rd BCT, focused his speech to the Soldiers on remembering the Holocaust and using it in everyday life in Iraq.

"When the unspeakable truth of the Holocaust became known at the end of the war, all too many of us [Americans at home] claimed that they had not known anything about it or even suspected anything was happening," he said.

"The endless cries of the Holocaust survivors are always remembered," he continued. "We hear that cry in the current voices here on the streets in Diyala, [Iraq]. We honor that, we are not bystanders.

"We accepted responsibility [to help others] when we took the oath, [joining the Army and] we stand by the statue of liberty," Cain said.

"We [must] remember," he said. "We stand here to make a difference, from the American GI who liberated the camps to the American medic who today treats an Iraqi child as if though it was his own."

Cain asked one last thing from the crowd of listening Soldiers, to not forget the Holocaust so they won't make the same mistakes in Iraq that were made years ago.

"What would happen [to Iraq] if we were to [pick-up and leave] today?" he asked. "Too many yesterdays have seen children maimed, murdered and hurt. [While] we're here, we will not forget, we will not fail to forget."